

PATENT

Serial No. 09/787,036

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action mailed on January 23, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of examining a record carrier for the ~~presence of a defects~~ comprising the acts of:

following a track to be examined and monitoring a resulting tracking signal; and

rating the examined ~~recording track~~ for the presence of media the defects based on the basis of characteristics of the resulting tracking signal; and

determining if recording should be discontinued based on the rating act indicating that the ~~resulting recording examined~~ track contains defects;

wherein the examined track is rated as being defective if the resulting tracking signal has a value which exceeds a predetermined threshold for a time period from approximately 50  $\mu$ s to

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approximately 75  $\mu$ s.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in ~~Claim 2~~  
Claim 1, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of  
zero which corresponds to ~~the~~ a center of ~~a~~ the examined track, and  
has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral  
deviation with respect to the center ~~of a track~~, and wherein a  
level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is chosen as  
the predetermined ~~signal~~ threshold.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A The method of examining as in Claim 1  
wherein the record carrier is examined for the presence of spot  
defects, the method further comprising the acts of:

- a) examining ~~the~~ integrity of predetermined test tracks of  
the record carrier;
- b) examining ~~the~~ integrity of tracks adjacent ~~the~~ a relevant

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test track each time that upon the examination a test track appears to be defective, in order to determine in this way the number of tracks affected by the same spot defect;

c) entering the ~~relevant~~ examined tracks in a defect list each time that the number thus determined in the ~~step~~ act (b) is greater than a predetermined threshold value;

d) storing the defect list in a memory.

6. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein a predetermined number of tracks between successive test tracks is skipped.

7. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the defect list is recorded on the examined record carrier.

8. (Currently Amended) A The method of recording information on a record carrier of the type having a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks, the method comprising the acts of:

[[ - ]] first providing, in an examination phase, a defect

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list of tracks affected by a comparatively large spot defect by means of a method as claimed in Claim 6;

[[[]]] subsequently recording information on the disc in a recording phase while reference is made to said defect list, the recording tracks included in said defect list being skipped in the recording process.

9. (Currently Amended) A-The method of examining of Claim 1 wherein the record carrier is examined for the presence of spot defects, the method further comprising the acts of:

[[a)]] examining the integrity of predetermined test tracks of the record carrier;

[[b)]] entering ~~the relevant defective~~ tracks in a primary defect list each time that upon the examination of a test track it appears to be defective, and entering tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite sides of the ~~relevant defective~~ test tracks in an alarm list;

[[c)]] storing the primary defect list and the alarm list in a memory.

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10. (Currently Amended) A-The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein a predetermined number of tracks between successive test tracks is skipped, and wherein each suspect area ~~always extends~~ from the ~~relevant-defective~~ test track to the directly preceding and the directly following test track, respectively.

11. (Currently Amended) A-The method of recording information on a record carrier of the type having a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks, the method comprising:

[[[-]] first providing, in a primary examination phase, a primary defect list of test tracks having a defect and, optionally, an alarm list of tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite sides of the ~~relevant-defective~~ test tracks, by means of a method as claimed in Claim 10;

[[[-]] subsequently recording information on the disc in a recording phase while reference is made to said primary defect list and said optional alarm list, the recording tracks included in said primary defect list as well as the tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite sides of the ~~relevant-defective~~ test tracks being skipped in the recording process;

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[[ - ]] subsequently examining the integrity of the tracks in said suspect areas in a secondary examination phase, in order to determine in this way the number of tracks affected by the same spot defect;

[[ - ]] entering the ~~relevant defective~~ tracks in a secondary defect list each time that the number thus determined is greater than a predetermined threshold value.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the secondary defect list is recorded on the examined record carrier.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of recording information on a record carrier, comprising the acts of:

monitoring a recording track to provide a rating of defects contained on the track; and

based on a resulting tracking signal indicating that the track contains a defect, determining whether ~~the recording process is to be continued or discontinued~~; wherein the recording track is rated as being defective if the tracking signal has a value which exceeds

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a predetermined threshold for a time period from approximately 50  
μs to approximately 75 μs.

Claim 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A The method as claimed in Claim 14~~  
Claim 13, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of  
zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum  
value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect  
to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected  
fraction of said maximum value is adopted as the predetermined  
signal threshold.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A recording device suitable for the  
recording of information, ~~particularly real time video or audio, on~~  
~~a the record carrier of the type comprising a multitude of~~  
~~concentric substantially circular recording tracks, particularly an~~  
~~optical disc, which said recording device comprises comprising:~~

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[[ - ]] a control unit;

[[ - ]] a write/read unit adapted to aim a laser beam at a the examined track of ~~a the~~ record carrier under control of the control unit and to receive laser light reflected from the disc, and further adapted to supply ~~a the~~ tracking signal to the control unit, ~~which wherein the~~ tracking signal has been determined ~~on the~~ basis of based on the reflected laser light; and

wherein the control unit is adapted to carry out the method as claimed in ~~Claim 16~~ Claim 13.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A The~~ method as claimed in ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 3, wherein the tracking signal has ~~a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is chosen as the predetermined signal threshold is equal to approximately 0.5.~~

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A The~~ method as claimed in ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1, wherein said ~~predetermined period of time period~~ is



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approximately 60  $\mu$ s.

20. (Currently Amended) A method ~~as Claimed in Claim 5, of~~  
examining a record carrier for presence of defects comprising the  
acts of:

following a track to be examined and monitoring a resulting  
tracking signal; and

rating the examined track for the presence of the defects  
based on characteristics of the resulting tracking signal; and

determining if recording should be discontinued based on the  
rating act indicating that the examined track contains defects;

wherein approximately 50 tracks between successive test  
examined tracks are skipped.

21. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method as claimed in ~~Claim 14~~  
~~Claim 15, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of~~  
~~zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum~~  
~~value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect~~  
~~to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected~~  
~~fraction of said maximum value is adopted as signal threshold,~~

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which preselected fraction is approximately 2/3.

22. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim 15  
Claim 13, wherein said predetermined period of time period is  
approximately 60  $\mu$ s.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of examining a record carrier  
for the presence of a defect comprising the acts of:

monitoring a track to be examined and generating a tracking  
signal from the track that is monitored;

rating the track for the presence of spot defects based on  
characteristics of the tracking signal;

entering the track into a defect list if the track it appears  
to be defective; and

creating a suspect area list for other tracks at opposite  
sides of the track if the track appears to be defective;

wherein the track is rated as being defective if the tracking  
signal has a value which exceeds a predetermined threshold for a  
time period from approximately 50  $\mu$ s to approximately 75  $\mu$ s.

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